

REMARKS

In the Office Action that was mailed on October 20, 2003, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-33, 35, and 37-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Adachi (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,336) ("Adachi"); and claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 34, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi. The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-44 are pending in the subject application, of which claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-33, 35, and 37-44 are independent claims.

Entry of Amendment After Final Rejection:

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments presented herein require only a cursory review by the examiner, and respectfully requests that the examiner enter such amendments.

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, and 43 are canceled herein. Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35, 38, 40, 42, and 44 are amended herein to recite deleting/restoring elements of data at the indicated position in a spiral pattern. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Support for the amendments to claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35, 38, 40, 42, and 44 may be found in the Specification at page 14, lines 27-31 and page 18, lines 11-16.

Rejections of the Claims:

After the amendments herein, claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35, 38, 40, 42, and 44 remain in the subject application as the only independent claims. All of the remaining independent claims recite deleting/restoring elements of data at an indicated position in a spiral pattern. Adachi does not disclose or suggest removing or replacing data elements in

a spiral pattern focusing on the indicated position. Therefore, the remaining independent claims of the subject application (as amended herein) are patentably distinguishable over Adachi. In addition, the remaining dependent claims are allowable based in part on their dependency, directly or indirectly, from one of the remaining independent claims.

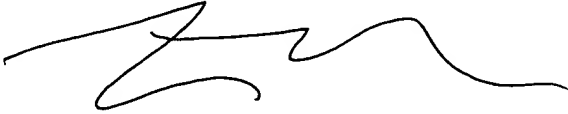
Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1-15-2004

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